



THE PALMYRA CIRCLE



No. 4 1949.

March 19, 1949.

The H.C. 65 returned from Canton Island and picked up nine additional passengers bound for the Big City up North. During the brief stop of the plane, Dr. Corboy was a busy man and did not get out to board the plane until the last moment. We understand that he is also quite a salesman. Just ask Doc Shields.

Alphabetically, the passengers from Palmyra were, Mrs. Cornell, Lester and Mrs. Fullard Leo, Eugenio Fontanilla, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Pollard, Jimmy Senaha, D.J. Snyder, and the young man who has been anxiously waiting for the 65 so he could do some climbing, WILLIAM C. VOSGIER III. (How is that Bill?)

When the Navy V.R. plane arrived last Tuesday morning it had three passengers for Palmyra, Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Comunias and their son Mike. Manuel is the popular Asst., Asst., H.T.I.C. who made the rush trip up to the big city to get his family but could not make the 65 due to the load it had already been assigned for Palmyra and Canton Islands.

The Editor was called on the spelling of some names in the last issue, and as he has not been able to see the GREAT (?) register in the hotel, (no fault of Doc Shields) there were three other passengers who boarded the 65 for Honolulu. They were the U.S. Weather Bureau man, The C.A.A. Fire Chief and the Communication Facilities Inspector.

Master Linn Bernard Haller, (hope it is right this time) was the young fellow who arrived in his mothers arms, when the H.C. 65 came in last week. He was listed as Bormard Haller, in error.

News Flash- The Navy announced yesterday that they would no longer be able to assist in searches for missing private boats lost in Hawaiian Waters. They will continue assisting in searched for Army and Navy boats and aircraft.

A PALMYRA FISH STORY.

by, Lorrin A. Thurston.

Published in the Honolulu Advertiser, August 13th., 1922.

"One of the outstanding features of Palmyra Island is the great variety of species and the astonishing numbers of fish found there. We arrived at the anchorage, some two miles off shore, too late to land at night. During the evening one of the party amused himself with a hook and line. The water was some thirty feet deep and in approximately half an hour he landed twenty-five fish of fifteen varieties or species. During the next few weeks we found that in the deep lagoons scattered about the main central platform itself which is awash at low tide or bare, and two to four feet under water at high tide, the same conditions prevailed.

Mullet in Swarms and Clouds.

As to Mullet - the same mullet that is the fish delicacy of Hawaii - except that they are somewhat lighter in color - the word "school" does not adequately describe them. They are in swarms and in "clouds", as they swoop across the shallows and crowd the inlets and shores of the miniature islands. Mullet are naturally a timid fish, by reason of the fact that in various stages of their growth they form a principal food for almost every fish that swims. Notwithstanding this, and the constitutional nervousness growing out of the necessity for being constantly on the qui vive for danger as to the price of life, they appear to have no fear of man if he stood still, or moved quite slowly. A school of mullet on the move, covering a quarter of an acre or so, would simply divide and pass around a man in water not over two feet deep, as unconcernedly as though he were a post or coral head. A single fling of a "throw net" usually provided two to three times as many mullet as our party of four could utilize.

The ulua, the most active fighter if the game fish of Hawaii as well as of the Palmyra region, was our favorite food fish, being palatable wether broiled, fried, baked or served as chowder.

To be continued next week.

QUARTERLY CENSUS REPORT.

This report should have been held up for the next issue, but due to the many requests it is being used at this time. Next week there will be only one figure given for the total population. The figures given do not include Palmyra residents who are temporarily in Honolulu on leave or for medical treatment.

Population as of March 19th.

Men- 44. Women- 21. Children- 23.
Total 88
Federal Employees 45 Dependents 42
Territorial Employees 1

There has been an increase of five children and five women since the December 24th report. There has been a drop of 16 in the number of men, due mainly to the departure of the construction crew.

OTHER FIGURES

1 Parrot, 1 Mynah Bird, 13 canaries, 12 Chickens, 1 registered cat, 50 (estimated) pet and wild cats, 1 registered Dog, 10 (approximately) other Dogs, 3 Rabbits and 8 Bicycles. All cars, trucks and jeeps are Government property so no figure is being given on their number or condition.

HERE AND THERE

Doc Shields behind the counter in the Commissary. Mrs. Christian looking for a missing box of groceries. Miss. Hill, walking or running the dog. Harris heading for the club. Mrs. Kimberling, starting for work. Gaster with his camera, watching the sunset. Higa sweating out some connections on the teletype at the new control station. Ed Watson looking over the fish from the causway. Stewart explaining the fine points of his air rifle to the boys. The Maint crew pulling weeds at the range. Pauline exercising the chickens. Pete the little mynah bird supervising and offering his advice as to how they should be handled. Overheard in the commissary, "That parrot whistles just like my old man and I can't tell which is which." Red seems to be in season as the red Ti leaf plant and also the single red hibiscus are in bloom at Hangerville Nursery and Orchid Shop. The sound of "Charlie, supper is ready". Mac and Otto tearing down the false front over the hanger office. Mrs. Flomming on her bicycle heading West from the apartments. George Avery over the drafting board in the office. Miss. Hill going in to the apartments with a box under her arm and surrounded by children, wonder what was in the box. Mr. and Mrs. Mathews out hiking, a pickup with two barking dogs in the back and more barking dogs along the road. A cat howling in the warehouse at night. A human spider in the tower at the hanger spinning a web to dry the fire hose and getting lots of advice from below.

FARMERS OF THE BLUE PACIFIC

by

Blake Clark

as printed in the Honolulu Advertiser
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Ignacio V. Bonavente, one-time elected chief of the island of Yap, boarded Navy Transport P-117 in Honolulu to return home. He carried with him packages of pepsin-laden shiny black seeds of the solo papaya and the dusty seeds of the "Pearl Harbor" tomato, fragrant samples of toasted pineapple bran and cane molasses, a bundle of spot resistant napier grass and two dozen grafted macadamia nut trees.

The precious collection, slated to aid in the rehabilitation of his Pacific homeland, made a bundle so small that Bonavente carried it up the gangplank under one arm. Yet, it was worth far more than its weight in gold. It represented the sweat and toil, the disappointments and triumphs of a group of men who have devoted half a lifetime to making Hawaii and the Pacific a better place to live. These experts are on the staff of the College of Agriculture at the University of Hawaii where they teach genetics, soil science, horticulture, and animal husbandry for, of and in the tropics. There is the only school in the world equipped to give training in tropical agriculture. In addition to lecturing, they conduct experiments which create new industries, save important crops from destruction, put millions of dollars into the pockets of farmers and businessmen and enrich life for everyone in the islands of the far Pacific.

The golden papaya melon, delicious tree fruit of the tropics, is a "must" on Hawaiian breakfast tables. But until 1936, when Herbert Beaumont, tall, athletic, plant-wise West Virginian came to direct the work of the University's agricultural experiment station, only a reckless farmer would attempt to grow it as a money crop. The trouble lay in the papaya's little-understood sex-life. Only the female bore fruit, but no one could tell a "lady" from a "gentleman" until the papaya was completely mature. Consequently 50 per cent of the area planted turned out to be unproductive males. In Hawaii, where cultivated land is precious, few farmers can afford to waste half their crop.

to be continued next week.

If you need pipe cleaners for your pipe or want them for making novelties, just see Otto. He also brought back a variety of spices and seeds not carried in the commissary. If you use or need cream of Tartar or Chili powder he still has several extra on hand.